

Eastern Army Command headquarters Fort William renamed 'Vijay Durg'

KOLKATA, Feb 5 (PTI)

IN A bid to move away from the colonial legacy, the Indian Army has renamed Eastern Command headquarters Fort William in Kolkata as 'Vijay Durg', a Defence official said on Wednesday.

In a decision taken internally, the Army has also rechristened some landmark buildings inside the sprawling campus situated in the heart of the city.

"We are gradually moving away from the colonial legacy," the Defence official told PTI about the Army's decision to rename Fort William and some other buildings inside it.

The Army has renamed St George's Gate as the Shivaji Gate, he said, maintaining that the decision to rechristen the fort and some historic edifices situated inside it was taken in November-December.

"We have renamed Kitchener House as Manekshaw House," he said. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw was the chief of



Army Staff during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 that led to the birth of Bangladesh.

Kitchener House had been named after HH Kitchener, the First Earl Of Khartoum.

The Army has also renamed Russell Block inside the fort as Bagha Jatin Block after freedom fighter Jatindranath Mukherjee better known as Bagha Jatin, who fell to the bullets of the British police following a gunfight in Odisha's Balasore in 1915.

Built in 1781, Fort William, the

former seat and symbol of authority of the British Empire, has an unparalleled aura with its historic structures and edifices in and around the fort.

Situated on the eastern banks of the river Hooghly during the British East India Company's rule, the brick and mortar fort had been named after King William III of England. The present-day fort complex covers an area of more than 170 acres and houses many colonial and modern-day structures together.

Argentina says it will withdraw from WHO, echoing Trump

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 5 (AP)

PRESIDENT Javier Milei has ordered Argentina's withdrawal from the World Health Organisation due to profound differences with the UN agency, a presidential spokesperson said Wednesday.

Milei's action echoes that of his ally, US President Donald Trump, who began the process of pulling the United States out of WHO with an executive order on his first day back in office on January 21.

Argentina's decision is based on "profound differences in health management, especially

during the (COVID19) pandemic," spokesperson Manuel Adorni said at a news conference in Buenos Aires.

He said that WHO guidelines at the time had led to the largest shutdown "in the history of mankind."

He also said that WHO lacked independence because of the political influence of some countries, without elaborating which countries.

Argentina will not allow an international organisation to intervene in its sovereignty "and much less in our health," Adorni added.

CIA's entire staff offered buyouts to align with Trump priorities: Report

The CIA offered buyouts to its entire workforce Tuesday, citing an aim to bring the agency in line with US President Trump's priorities, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

A CIA spokesperson said in



a statement the moves were meant to align the agency with the goals of new CIA director **John**

Ratcliffe. "Director Ratcliffe is moving swiftly to ensure the CIA workforce is responsive to the administration's national security priorities. These moves are part of a holistic strategy to infuse the agency with renewed energy," a CIA spokesperson said. The agency does not disclose its budget or the number of people it employs.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the news. The move would make it the first intelligence agency to join a voluntary redundancy program initiated by Trump for federal employees. The agency is also freezing the hiring of job seekers already given a conditional offer, the paper reported, citing an aide to Ratcliffe. The aide said some of those frozen offers are likely to be rescinded if the applicants do not have the right background for the agency's new goals, the Journal said. The White House last week offered 2 million federal workers an opportunity to stop working this week and get pay and benefits through Sept 30. REUTERS



AGENCY IN DISARRAY

CIA sent unclassified email with employees' names to White House

The CIA sent the White House an unclassified email listing all employees hired by the spy agency over the last two years to comply with an executive order to shrink the federal workforce, in a move that former officials say risked the list leaking to adversaries. The list included first names and the first initial of the last name of the new hires, who are still on probation — and thus easy to dismiss. It included a large crop of young analysts and operatives who were hired specifically to focus on China, and whose identities are usually closely guarded because Chinese hackers are constantly seeking them to identify them. The agency normally would prefer not to put these names in an unclassified system. Some former officials said they worried that the list could be passed on to a team of newly hired young software experts working with Elon Musk. If that happened, the names of the employees might be more easily targeted by China, Russia or other foreign intelligence services. NYT

OpenAI to collaborate with India, Altman hails Modi's AI vision

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (IANS)

AS THE artificial intelligence (AI) race heats up globally, India has devised an exhaustive strategy to create a full AI stack and OpenAI is willing to collaborate with the country on this mission, Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

After meeting OpenAI Co-founder and CEO Sam Altman in the national capital, the Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw posted on X that Altman praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision around AI and overall aim to democratise technology.

"Had super cool discussion with @sama on our strategy of creating the entire AI stack -



models, model, and apps. Willing to collaborate with India on all three," Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw posted.

The Minister further stated that Prime Minister Modi "guides us to democratise technology" and Altman "appreciated PM's vision".

Earlier, Altman who is the owner of popular ChatGPT models, said India is a very important market for AI and the company's second biggest market globally.

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman during a meeting in New Delhi. (PTI)

According to him, India should be a leader in the AI race. "AI models are still not cheap, but they are doable. India should be a leader there, of course," he told the gathering.

Altman expressed amazement at how the country has embraced the technology and built an entire ecosystem around it.

In the recently presented Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the creation of three Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in AI for education. The initiative, with a budget allocation of Rs 500 crore, aims to strengthen AI research and its use in the education system in the country.

The new AI Centres of Excellence will work on advanced

research, the development of AI learning tools, and foster collaboration between educational institutions and industries. The goal is to equip students with the skills they need to thrive in the future. "AI is transforming industries worldwide, and India needs to lead in both AI research and its practical applications," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

The country is also likely to launch its own safe and secure indigenous AI model within six months at an affordable cost. Backed by a high-end common computing facility, the India AI mission is now closer to customising indigenous AI solutions for the domestic context using Indian languages.

Finance Ministry directs officers not to use ChatGPT, DeepSeek, other AI models

NEW DELHI, Feb 5 (PTI)

THE Finance Ministry has directed its officers not to download or use AI tools and apps such as ChatGPT and DeepSeek in office computers and devices, saying they pose confidentiality risks to data and documents.

In a communication last month to all its departments, the ministry said AI tools/AI apps in office devices may be strictly avoided. "It has been determined that AI tools and AI apps (such as ChatGPT, DeepSeek etc) in the

office computers and devices pose risks for confidentiality of Govt, data and documents," Department of Expenditure under the Ministry said in a note on January 29.

The move comes at a time when countries like Australia and Italy have shielded their official systems from Chinese DeepSeek over privacy and data safety concerns. Currently, Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, which has developed artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT is on a whirlwind tour to India.